

20TH ANNIVERSARY

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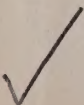
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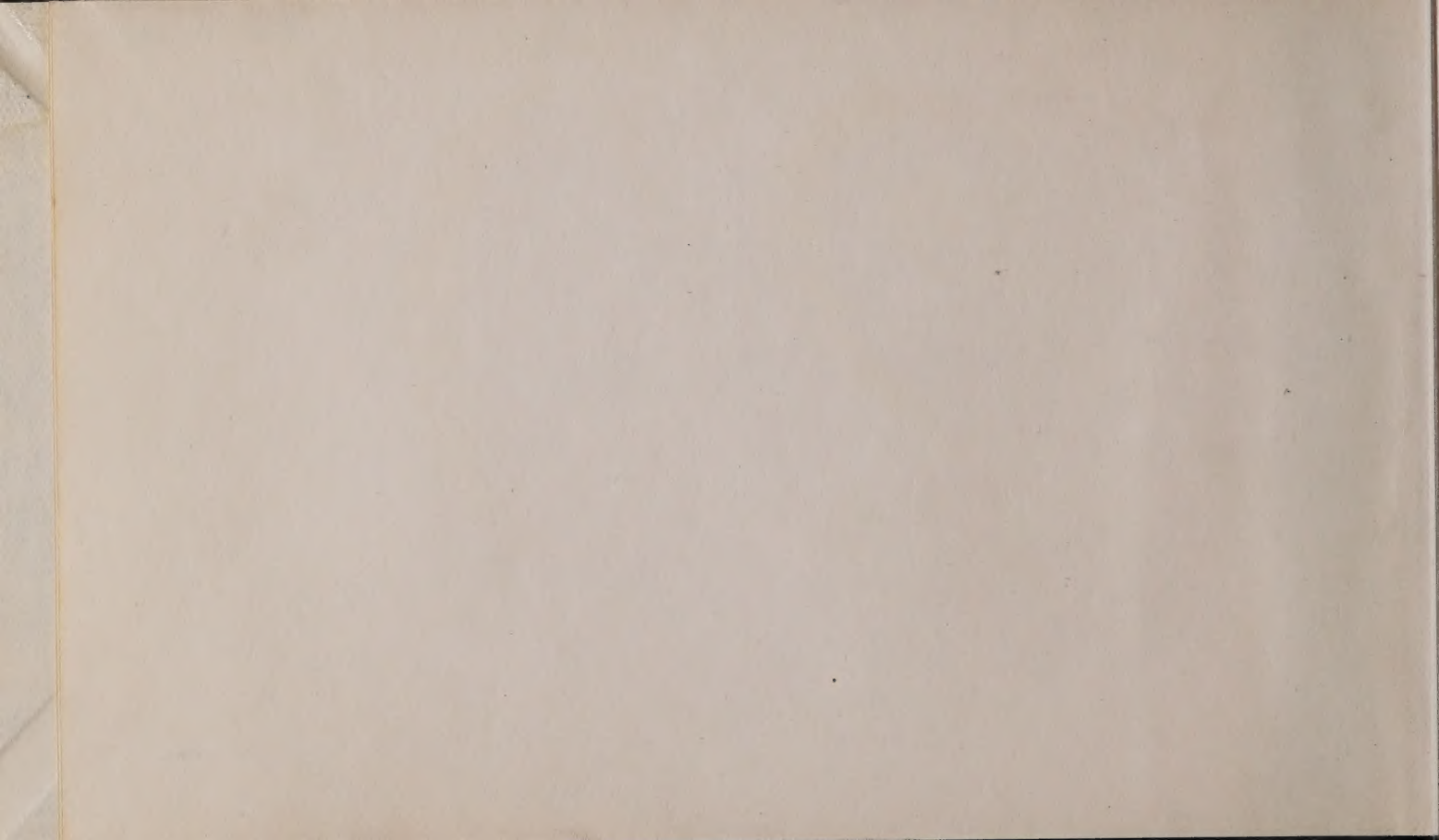
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20th anniversary, St. Luke's  
Lutheran Church, Fort  
Wayne, Indiana









# 20<sup>th</sup>

BLACK & GOLD

ANNIVERSARY

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH FORT WAYNE, IND.

BLACK & GOLD

Allen County Public Library  
900 Webster Street  
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## *Dedication of this Book*

To all those who through the years have given of their time, talents, and treasure to put forward the work of St. Luke's congregation this booklet is lovingly dedicated. Without the devotion of these persons St. Luke's would not and could not exist. Their names are too many to note here and the labors of some may have gone unnoticed by men, but God has seen and blessed the consecrated efforts of all. Our prayer is that God may continue to find in St. Luke's devout persons upon whom He can pour out His blessing that they may be a blessing.

*"But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and  
perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts,  
he shall be blessed in his doing".*

James 1:25



## *Gloria Dei*

Our Altar and Sanctuary tells us of the glory of our God. It reminds us that with God is the "Mercy seat" for it speaks to us of the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord, Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

"O come let us sing unto the Lord;

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come unto His presence with thanksgiving.

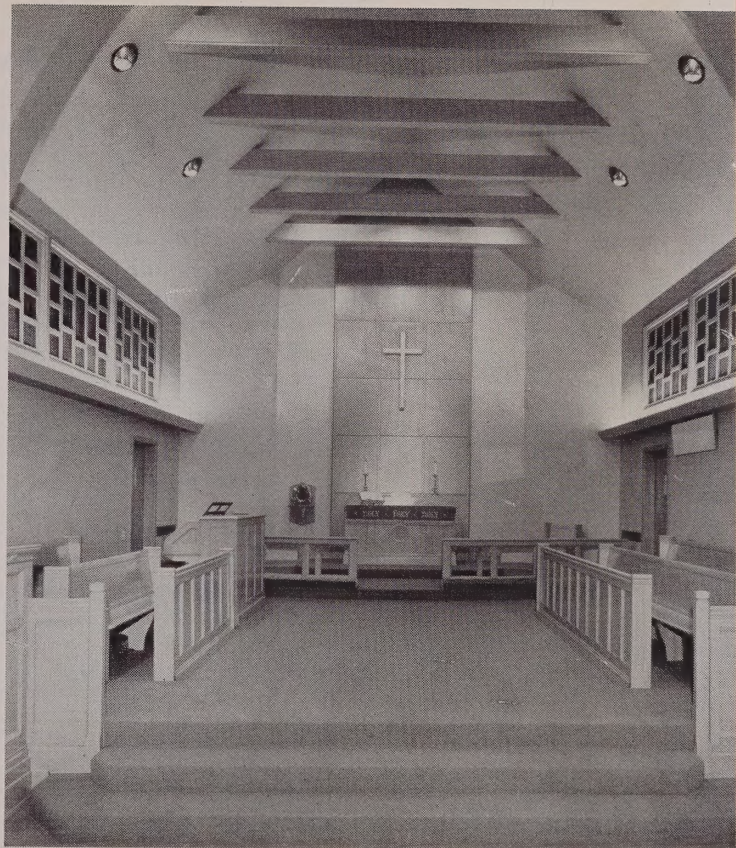
Let us make a joyful noise unto Him with songs of praise!

O come let us worship and bow down,

Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand."

—from Psalm 95 and Psalm 122



## *Twenty Years of Service*

St. Luke's has furnished leadership in work of the Synod and United Lutheran Church. We have had three presidents of the Synodical Brotherhood, one president of the Missionary Society, two presidents of the Luther League, and one person has served on the Executive Board of the National Brotherhood.

At present members of St. Luke's are serving as Synodical representatives on Wittenberg College Board of Directors, Board of Ministerial Education, Board of Home Missions, and the Oesterlen Children's Home Board of Directors. Two persons have served as delegates to several conventions of the United Lutheran Church.

The following members of St. Luke's have entered or will enter the full time service of the Church.

Sister Betty Ruth Amstutz, deaconess—Social Work, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mrs. Esther Emerick, Social Work, Pottstown, Pa.

The Reverend James Beard, minister, Connersville, Ind.

The Reverend Jack Houser, minister, Salem, Indiana.

Mr. Robert Schmeding, Theological Student—Hamma Divinity School.

Miss Ann Richards, Physio Therapy—Social Work, under Board of Education U.L.C.A., Senior Columbia University.

Mr. Thomas D. Richards, Gospel Ministry, sophomore, Wittenberg College.

Mr. John Richards, Medical student, Indiana University—social medical work.

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St. Luke's has supported a Parish abroad in British Guiana since 1948.

St. Luke's has consistently met and exceeded its benevolence apportionment since 1943. All special benevolences, Lutheran World Action, Lutherwald, Christian Higher Education, and others have always been met and generously exceeded.



# Twenty Years of Community Effort

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1936                      1956

### Membership

|           |     |      |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Baptized  | 297 | 1204 |
| Confirmed | 205 | 712  |
| Communing | 172 | 619  |

### Church School

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| 221 | 518 |
|-----|-----|

### Teachers and Officers

|    |    |
|----|----|
| 23 | 63 |
|----|----|

### Nursery Roll

|    |     |
|----|-----|
| 13 | 106 |
|----|-----|

### Assets of Congregation

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| \$1,200.00 (lots) | \$224,500. |
|-------------------|------------|

### Indebtedness

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| None | Mortgage \$58,021   |
|      | Individuals \$4,500 |

### Budget

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| \$2,150.00 | \$39,132.00 |
|------------|-------------|

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3601 Warsaw Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Member of Indiana Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America, Member of the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Parish Abroad: Transfiguration Congregation, Betsy Ground, British Guiana, South America.



# History

Late in 1935, due to circumstances brought on by the depression, it became apparent that Christ Lutheran Church would lose its building and be disbanded as a congregation. On December 8, 1935 a group of people met at Christ Church to consider the organization of a new congregation.

A committee composed of eight men, Messrs. Harold Barnes, Fred J. Niemeyer, Kenneth Beard, Louis Montooth, Herman Krouse, Frank Amstutz, Kenneth Brown, and Claude Charles was chosen to make a canvass of those interested in membership in the new congregation and the selection of a site for a future church building. The canvass resulted in a list of seventy interested families. It was decided to locate in Southeast Fort Wayne and two lots at Warsaw and Hamilton Streets were purchased for the price of \$1,200.00. The name of St. Luke's was chosen.

A meeting was called by the committee on July 10, 1936 for the purpose of formally organizing the new congregation. The first church council was elected. In addition to the above mentioned names it consisted of Messrs. James Swihart, Walter Jeffries, Fred Larson, Page Hood, and Albert Frederick. The Reverend R. H. Trojan was secured as supply pastor. The first worship service and Sunday School were held on Sunday, July 19th at the L. C. Ward Public School where services were continued to be held until the erection of the first building.

The charter roll was signed by 209 charter members. Groundbreaking for the first unit of the building was held on June 22, 1937. The cornerstone was laid on October 3, 1937 and the building was dedicated on February 20, 1938. In 1941 an additional lot was purchased south of the church. The Reverend Mr. Trojan was formally called as pastor on February 15, 1937 and served until December 13, 1942.

The Reverend J. Luther Seng of Indianapolis, Indiana was called as pastor on December 27, 1942 and was installed on February 28, 1943 by the Reverend Homer E. Turney, then president of the Indiana Synod.

A mortgage burning ceremony was held February 18, 1945 to celebrate the payment of the \$16,000.00 mortgage on the first unit. Two worship services were begun on Sunday, February 2, 1947. Membership had doubled at that time. Two additional lots were purchased adjoining our property on the south. A temporary structure formerly used as a school before the erection of the L. C. Ward School was moved from the South Side Market and re-erected on our property to house some of the children's departments of our church school.

Ground breaking for an Educational unit was held on November 28, 1948 and dedicated November 6, 1949. The building cost \$56,000.00. A remaining debt of \$29,000.00 was paid off September 23, 1953.

Groundbreaking for the third unit consisting of the remodeling and enlargement of the Sanctuary and Nave, a new Narthex, new pastor's study and church office, new kitchen, and heating facilities was held May 2, 1954. The date stone for this building was placed on October 31, 1954, and the building was dedicated on June 19, 1955. The cost of this new addition was approximately \$110,000.00 on which there was a remaining indebtedness of \$68,000.00. Since the completion of our building approximately \$2,500.00 has been expended upon the kitchen.

# *Highlights and Sidelights*

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A down payment of \$50.00 was made on the original lot purchase of \$1,200.00 in 1936. Finances were severely limited. The offering at the first service was \$19.70. First month's offerings \$100.93.

Of the first church council six remain as members of the congregation, two of whom now serve on the council, two have passed away, and three have removed from Fort Wayne. Of the original 209 charter members, ninety remain as members, forty have passed away.

Our pipe organ was purchased from the Verlinden Organ Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1943. It was dedicated October 24, 1943. Installed cost was \$2,264.36.

Mr. Earl Snouffer has been the building contractor on all three units of our present edifice.

The speaker at the dedication of the Educational Unit in 1949 was the Reverend Geo. Volkmar. The Reverend F. M. Hanes, D.D., president of the Indiana Synod spoke at the dedication services in 1955.

Money raised for the purchase of the pipe organ also enabled us to purchase a grand piano for \$350.00.

Of interest is that this piano was purchased for Pastor Seng's home and a spinet piano of Pastor Seng's was traded to the church. In 1955 these two pianos were exchanged again.

Members of Antioch Lutheran Church, Hoagland, contributed \$115.00 toward the erection of the first unit of our building.

The cornerstone of Massilon Lutheran Church (defunct) formerly located in Southeast Allen County is placed in the north foundation wall of St. Luke's.

The original indebtedness of \$16,000.00 paid off in 1945 also included payment of \$4,550.00 interest down through the years.

The first additional lot cost \$366.78 and the next or 4th lot purchased cost \$1,000.00. The last two lots (5th and 6th) added to our property March 26, 1950 cost \$2,450.00.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rietdorf, members of Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne gave us the temporary structure now used as a Boy Scout Building. Our Boy Scout troop was organized on February 3, 1948. Mr. Paul Kutsch, scoutmaster.

Special prayer services were held on D-Day, Tuesday, June 6, 1944 and on V-E Day, Thursday, August 11, 1945. Large crowds attended.

Glenn Lewton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lewton, Louis Hauser, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hauser, Sr., and father of Rodney, and Robert Carder, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Carder, and father of Michael made the supreme sacrifice for our country in World War II.

Brass altar vases were given to the church in 1946 by Mrs. Lewis McCague and Mrs. J. A. Swihart. Brass candlesticks and an alms receiving bason were given by Mr. F. J. Niemeyer as a memorial to his wife and his parents.

An outdoor signboard was given to the church in 1949 by Messrs. Ralph Bentz and Arthur Bowers.

A fire loss of \$200.00 was sustained in our Educational building on September 12, 1949 before its completion.

Our District deacon system was organized on October 3, 1950.

A directional sign was placed on Rudisill Blvd. and Warsaw Sts. in June, 1952 — post and installation donated by Messrs. Ralph and Glen Bentz.



## CHURCH COUNCIL AND STAFF

### STAFF

Pastor—The Reverend J. Luther Seng  
Parish Secretary—Mrs. Clifford H. Richards  
Organist—Miss Vera Baumgartner  
Choir Director—Mr. Frank Bidlack  
Publicity—Mr. Ray Lieber  
Sextons—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Getts

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Vice President.....Mr. Paul Dennis  
Secretary.....Mr. Harold Barnes  
Current Treasurer.....Mr. Ralph Powell  
Benevolence Treasurer.....Mr. Gilbert Hines  
Building Fund Treasurer.....Dr. Jean Spear  
Current-Benevolence  
Secretary.....Mr. George Krouse  
Building Fund Secretary.....Mr. Herman Ehrman  
Chief Usher.....Mr. Kenneth Striker  
Property Custodian.....Mr. Don Danklefsen  
Chairman Counting  
Committee.....Mr. Howard Emenhiser  
Music.....Mr. Glen Bentz  
Parish Education.....Mr. Page Hood

## *Our Pastor*

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, the fourth son of five sons of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Seng, Sr.

Educated in the public schools of Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky.

Graduated from Louisville Male High School, Wittenberg College, and Hamma Divinity School.

Previous pastorate at Bethany Church, Indianapolis, 1928-43.

At St. Luke's since February 28, 1943.

Pastor and Mrs. Seng are the parents of three children, Louise Ann Replogle, Charles, and John, Jr.

J. LUTHER SENG



*"Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.  
How shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed?  
And how shall they believe in Him in Whom they have not heard?  
And how shall they hear except some one proclaims Him?  
And who will go and proclaim Him except he is sent?"*

Romans 10:12-14

## CHURCH SCHOOL

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Superintendent.....                          | Mr. Frank Amstutz        |
| Assistant Superintendent.....                | Mr. Paul Knerr           |
| Secretary.....                               | Mr. Harold Longstreet    |
| Assistant Secretary.....                     | Miss Donna Munger        |
| Librarian.....                               | Mrs. Russell Lee         |
| Pianist.....                                 | Mrs. Chas. Meyer         |
| Assistant Pianist.....                       | Mrs. J. L. Seng          |
| Superintendent of Children's Department..... | Mrs. Page Hood           |
| Two Year Old Children.....                   | Mrs. Howard D. Emenhiser |
| Three Year Old Children.....                 | Mrs. Jos. Blough         |
| Kindergarten Children.....                   | Mrs. Page Hood (temp.)   |
| Primary Children.....                        | Mrs. Gerald Igney        |
| Junior Children.....                         | Mrs. C. H. Richards      |

## PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Chairman..... | Clifford H. Richards |
|---------------|----------------------|

### Home:

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Mr. E. C. Fessel | Mrs. Earl Roop |
| Mrs. Jean Spear  | Mr. Hood       |

### Children and Youth:

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. Hood        | Mr. John Hoover |
| Mrs. Ralph Beams | Mrs. Richards   |

### Adult Education:

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Mrs. Geo. Grunewald | Mr. Amstutz      |
| Mrs. Blough         | Mr. Robt. Miller |

### Facilities:

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. Ray Lieber    | Mr. Wm. Allen        |
| Mr. Roger Sifford | Mr. Carlton Niemeyer |



## Auxiliaries

The Auxiliaries of the congregation for men, women, and young people have usefully functioned throughout the history of the congregation.

The women's organizations, Ladies' Aid, Missionary Society, and Nursery Guild (founded 1944) are about to enter a new era of service in the congregation in that there will be a unified program for all of our women that will begin work in the fall.

Present auxiliary officers are:

### Ladies' Aid

President.....Mrs. Fred Goeglein  
Vice President.....Mrs. Edith Stillabower  
Secretary.....Mrs. Ben Lake  
Treasurer.....Mrs. Fred Bicknese

### Nursery Guild

President.....Mrs. Earl Roop  
Vice President.....Mrs. Tunis Bond  
Secretary.....Mrs. Earl Moore  
Treasurer.....Mrs. Ronald Fox

### Luther League

President.....Donna Munger  
Vice President.....Judy Ehrman  
Secretary.....Marilyn Borcharding  
Treasurer.....Don Danklefsen, Jr.

### Women's Missionary Society

President.....Mrs. Jehu Andrew  
Vice President.....Mrs. Frank Amstutz  
Secretary.....Mrs. Lewis McCague  
Treasurer.....Mrs. Roy Gibson

### Brotherhood

President.....Mr. Robert Miller  
Vice President.....Mr. Gilbert Hines  
Secretary.....Mr. Grover Scott  
Treasurer.....Mr. John Hoelle



The following business firms and individuals have  
sponsored the publication of this Anniversary Booklet.

Moellering Janitor Supply  
Co.

Rudisill Fuel Oil

Fred J. Niemeyer,  
Insurance

Hipskind Plumbing &  
Supply Co.

Schwiebert Organ and  
Music Shoppe —  
Southgate Shopping  
Center

Mettler Florist

Mox Pohlmeier and  
Associates — Architects

E. W. Snouffer and Son —  
Contractors

C. M. Sloan & Sons —  
Funeral Home

Fort Wayne National Bank  
South Branch

Decorator's Supply Co.

Lincoln National Bank —  
Clinton and Rudisill





